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EAST TEXAS COLLOQUY

By Bobby H. Johnson

Approximately 75 persons braved uncertain weather to attend the annual spring meeting of the Association at Crockett on March 22, 1975. Held in the historic First United Methodist Church, the meeting featured a number of papers on local history. It was ably put together by Ms. Eliza Bishop, chairman of the Houston County Historical Survey Committee.

Martha and Pat Kelley opened the meeting with a presentation entitled "Methodist Roots in East Texas—When, Where, Who, and What in Houston County." Mrs. John Wooters spoke on "Other Culture Transplants Revealed through Period Restoration of Monroe-Crook House."

The second session also featured papers on East Texas religion and architecture. Mrs. Evelyn Rice Corley spoke on "Search for Real Roots—A Log Cabin or a Stage Coach Inn Too—and Restoration at Last." This paper dealt with the Rice Log Cabin located in Mission Tejas State Park east of Crockett. The Rev. Anselm Walker concluded the morning session with a talk on "Beginning of Christianity in East Texas—Mission San Francisco de los Tejas."

Ms. Bishop's luncheon talk described "A Pineywoods Bicentennial." Following the luncheon, members were invited to tour several local homes. Our appreciation goes to Ms. Bishop for her efforts in bringing the Association to Houston County.

Members are urged to attend the fall meeting in Nacogdoches.

Lois Parker of Beaumont, a member of the Association's Board of Directors, has made a donation to the ETHA in memory of her mother. In these days of inflation and tight money, this is an excellent means of raising funds for the Association, and Ms. Parker is to be commended. Others may want to follow her example. Please write the *Journal* if you wish to honor a friend or relative.

Jenkins Publishing Company announces the publication of a new book on a large portion of East Texas. *Liberty, Liberty County, and the Atascosito District*, by Miriam Partlow, deals with most of the southeast Texas area. Based on primary research materials, the book is available from Jenkins for \$14.95 per copy.

Members are urged to remember the special issue being planned on Black history in Texas. If you have something you wish to be considered, please send it to the editor.

Texas historians are also reminded of the Spring meeting of the Texas State Historical Association scheduled for Galveston in March, 1976. Dr. Ben Procter of Texas Christian University is serving as program chairman.

The historical activists in Marion County are still at it. Long known for their sense of historical value, the Marion County people inform us regularly of their projects. (This is a good idea for other historical groups in the East Texas area.) Katherine R. Wise, chairman of the Marion County Historical Survey Committee, reports that they are currently involved in a restoration of the downtown Jefferson area. Other projects in motion include restoration of the old Oakwood Cemetery and marking of the grave of John Burke, a Civil War spy for Jeb Stuart and later a Jefferson and Marshall attorney. The committee is also interested in making historical use of the old Carnegie Library, especially the old opera house once located on the second floor.

The Smith County Historical Society/Survey Committee is also quite active. This is evident from the handsome *Newsletter* edited by Howard O. Pollan. Officers for 1975 are Mrs. Loy J. Gilbert, president; Miss Mary Jane McNamara, vice president; Miss Lexie Palmore, recording secretary; Mrs. Leon Bailey, Jr., corresponding secretary; Leo Carothers, treasurer; and Pollan, museum director. One achievement of the group this year was the dedication of the Loftin-Wiggins House in Tyler.